

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed March 9, 2009 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing Amendment and following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10, 12-15, and 18-22 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10, and 12-15 stand rejected. Claims 18-22 are newly added. No new matter has been added.

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Lu for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representatives, Robert B. Reeser and Michael R. Anslinger, during a personal interview conducted on April 29, 2009. During the interview, Claim 1 of the instant application and U.S. Patent No. 6,471,091 were discussed. More specifically, Applicant's representatives proposed an amendment including a third fastening mechanism. An agreement was reached that a recitation of the third fastening mechanism would overcome the Section 112, first paragraph and Section 102(b) rejections.

The rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10, and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph is respectfully traversed. It is asserted on pages 2-3 of the Office Action that "said body inner surface is coupled against said body outer surface" recited in Claims 1, 7, and 13 and a "third fastening mechanism" recited in Claim 3 are new matters. Applicant respectfully traverses these assertions.

Regarding "said body inner surface is coupled against said body outer surface," Claims 1, 7, and 13 have been amended to address the issues raised in the Office Action. Regarding a "third fastening mechanism," per the agreement made during the interview conducted on April 29, 2009, Applicant respectfully submits that a "third fastening mechanism" is not new matter. For example, paragraph [0018] of the present application recites:

[0018] In the exemplary embodiment, body outer surface 62 is formed integrally with a fastening mechanism 70 that enables glove 10 to couple thereto in a mating arrangement with closing strap 20. Body outer surface fastening mechanism 70 is variably selected to enable closing strap 20 to couple directly thereto. For example, in the exemplary embodiment, closing strap 20 is covered with a hook and pile material, and body outer surface 62 is covered with a hook and pile material that

enables either glove strap flap portion 24 and/or strap backing portion 22 to couple directly against outer surface 62. Body outer surface fastening mechanism 70 is variably selected to enable closing strap 20 to couple directly thereto. In an alternative embodiment, fastening mechanism 70 may include, but is not limited to, adhesive materials, double-sided tapes, mechanical fastening devices, interlocking devices, hook and loop fasteners, tab and slot devices, locking mechanisms, magnets, tying systems, and/or clips, depending on which fastening device is used with strap 20. *In an alternative embodiment, system 14 also includes a fastening mechanism coupled thereto, such as a ring, that enables other golf paraphernalia and equipment, such as a golf hat or a towel, to be secured thereto when system 14 is coupled within golf cart 12.*

(Emphasis added).

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10, and 12-15 under Section 112 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 7, 9, 10, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,471,091 (Unverzagt) is respectfully traversed.

Unverzagt describes a label holding and dispensing device 10 that includes a strap 24 that has a first end 26, a second end 28, an outer surface 34, and an inner surface 32. A fastening member 36 removably fastens inner surface 32 to outer surface 34. Fastening member 36 includes a hook and loop fastening means. A securing member 38 removably secures a housing 12 to strap 24. Securing member 38 includes a hook and loop fastening means. Strap 24 has a length between 5 and 9 inches. Notably, Unverzagt does not describe nor suggest an apparatus that includes a first edge along a first axis, a second edge along a second axis that is substantially perpendicular to the first axis, and a first fastening mechanism extending parallel to the first axis, wherein the first edge is longer than the second edge. Moreover, Unverzagt does not describe nor suggest a third fastening mechanism.

Claim 7 recites a golf glove drying apparatus that comprises “a first end, an opposing second end, a body extending from said first end to said second end, a first edge along a first axis, and a second edge along a second axis that is substantially perpendicular to said first axis, said first edge is longer than said second edge, said body comprises an inner surface and an opposing outer surface, said body is configured to couple to the frame support such that a central axis of said apparatus extends from said first end to said second end and such that said

body is aligned substantially concentrically with and surrounds the support, said central axis is substantially coaxial with the frame longitudinal axis when said body substantially conforms to an external surface of the support and when said apparatus is coupled to said support, said body inner surface comprises at least one first fastening mechanism for coupling said body to the support, said at least one first fastening mechanism extending parallel to said first axis, said body outer surface comprises at least one second fastening mechanism for removably coupling a golf glove directly against said body such that the glove remains coupled in a mating arrangement against said outer surface when said apparatus is coupled to the support, said at least one second fastening mechanism extending between said first end and said second end.”

Applicant respectfully submits that Unverzagt does not describe nor suggest a golf glove drying apparatus as is recited in Claim 7. Specifically, Unverzagt does not describe nor suggest an apparatus that includes a first edge along a first axis, a second edge along a second axis that is substantially perpendicular to the first axis, and a first fastening mechanism extending parallel to the first axis, wherein the first edge is longer than the second edge. Rather, and in contrast to the invention, Unverzagt describes a first edge along a first axis, a second edge along a second axis that is perpendicular to the first axis, and a fastening member and a securing member each extending parallel to the first axis, wherein the first edge is shorter than the second edge.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 7 is submitted to be patentable over Unverzagt.

Claims 9, 10, and 12 depend from independent Claim 7. When the recitations of Claims 9, 10, and 12 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 7, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 9, 10, and 12 likewise are patentable over Unverzagt.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 7, 9, 10, and 12 under Section 103 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10, and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,499,227 (Jacobson) in view of Unverzagt is respectfully traversed.

Jacobson describes a sports glove drying device including a strap (35) that is wrapped about a pole (20) of a golf cart (15). Strap (35) includes a rigid first end (34) and a flexible second end (32). After strap (35) is wrapped around pole (20), second end (32) is pulled through a latch (70) to secure strap (35) against pole (20) such that first end (34) extends rigidly outward from pole (20) to suspend a card (40) therefrom. Notably, Jacobson does not describe nor suggest an apparatus that includes a first edge along a first axis, a second edge along a second axis that is substantially perpendicular to the first axis, and a first fastening mechanism extending parallel to the first axis, wherein the first edge is longer than the second edge. Moreover, Jacobson does not describe nor suggest a third fastening mechanism.

Unverzagt is described above.

Claim 1 recites a golf cart comprising “a golf cart frame support having at least one external surface and defining a longitudinal axis . . . and an apparatus for coupling a glove to said support, said apparatus comprising a first end, an opposing second end, and a body extending from said first end to said second end, said body comprising an inner surface and an opposite outer surface, said body coupled to said support such that a central axis of said body extends from said first end to said second end and such that said body is substantially concentrically aligned with and surrounds said support, said central axis is substantially coaxial with said longitudinal axis when said body substantially conforms to said at least one external surface of said support when said apparatus is coupled to said support, said body inner surface comprising at least one first fastening mechanism for coupling said body to said support, said body outer surface comprising at least one second fastening mechanism for removably coupling the glove directly against said body such that a surface of the glove remains coupled against said outer surface in a mating arrangement when said apparatus is coupled to said support, said at least one second fastening mechanism extending between said first end and said second end, said apparatus further comprising at least one third fastening mechanism for removably coupling other golf equipment to said apparatus.”

Applicant respectfully submits that no combination of Jacobson and Unverzagt describes nor suggests a golf cart as is recited in Claim 1. Specifically, no combination of Jacobson and Unverzagt describes nor suggests a third fastening mechanism. Rather, and in contrast to the invention, Jacobson merely describes a flexible end of a strap wrapped around a pole, and Unverzagt merely describes a fastening member and a securing member.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Jacobson in view of Unverzagt.

Claims 2, 5, and 6 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2, 5, and 6 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 2, 5, and 6 likewise are patentable over Jacobson in view of Unverzagt.

Claim 7 is recited above.

Applicant respectfully submits that no combination of Jacobson and Unverzagt describes nor suggests a golf glove drying apparatus as is recited in Claim 7. Specifically, no combination of Jacobson and Unverzagt describes nor suggests an apparatus that includes a first edge along a first axis, a second edge along a second axis that is substantially perpendicular to the first axis, and a first fastening mechanism extending parallel to the first axis, wherein the first edge is longer than the second edge. Rather, and in contrast to the invention, Jacobson merely describes a flexible end of a strap wrapped around a pole, and Unverzagt describes a first edge along a first axis, a second edge along a second axis that is perpendicular to the first axis, and a fastening member and a securing member each extending parallel to the first axis, wherein the first edge is shorter than the second edge.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 7 is submitted to be patentable over Jacobson in view of Unverzagt.

Claims 9, 10, and 12 depend from independent Claim 7. When the recitations of Claims 9, 10, and 12 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 7, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 9, 10, and 12 likewise are patentable over Jacobson in view of Unverzagt.

Claim 13 recites a method of drying a damp golf glove, the method comprising “providing a golf cart frame support that includes a longitudinal axis extending therethrough . . . providing an apparatus that includes a first end, an opposing second end, and a body extending from the first end to the second end, wherein the body includes an inner surface and an opposite outer surface, the body sized to surround the frame support . . . coupling the apparatus to the support such that a central axis of the apparatus extends from the first end to the second end, and such that the central axis is oriented substantially coaxial with the

longitudinal axis when the body substantially conforms to an external surface of the support and when the apparatus is coupled to the support . . . securing the apparatus to the support using at least one first fastening mechanism coupled to the body inner surface such that the apparatus is aligned substantially concentrically with the support; removably coupling a golf glove against the body using at least one second fastening mechanism such that the glove is directly coupled against the body outer surface in a mating arrangement when the apparatus is coupled to the support, said at least one second fastening mechanism extending between said first end and said second end . . . and removably coupling other golf equipment to the apparatus using at least one third fastening mechanism.”

Applicant respectfully submits that no combination of Jacobson and Unverzagt describes nor suggests a method of drying a damp golf glove as is recited in Claim 13. Specifically, no combination of Jacobson and Unverzagt describes nor suggests removably coupling other golf equipment to an apparatus using a third fastening mechanism. Rather, and in contrast to the invention, Jacobson merely describes suspending a card from a strap wrapped around a pole, and Unverzagt merely describes securing a housing to a strap.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 13 is submitted to be patentable over Jacobson in view of Unverzagt.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from independent Claim 13. When the recitations of Claims 14 and 15 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 13, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 14 and 15 likewise are patentable over Jacobson in view of Unverzagt.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10, and 12-15 under Section 103 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Jacobson in view of Unverzagt as applied to Claim 1 above and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,755,177 (Hill) is respectfully traversed.

Jacobson and Unverzagt are described above.

Hill describes an appliance 50 that includes a bar 20 having a first extended end (not numbered) with a centrally located groove 52 and serrated edges 51 and a second extended

end (not numbered) with a protruding button 54 and an element 53 that encircles bar 20 and forms a channel (not numbered). Button 54 is inserted into groove 52, and bar 20 is tightened such that serrated edges 51 lock into a tight fit. Notably, Hill does not describe nor suggest an apparatus that includes a first edge along a first axis, a second edge along a second axis that is substantially perpendicular to the first axis, and a first fastening mechanism extending parallel to the first axis, wherein the first edge is longer than the second edge. Moreover, Hill does not describe nor suggest a third fastening mechanism for removably coupling other golf equipment to the apparatus.

Claim 3 depends from independent Claim 1, which is recited above.

Applicant respectfully submits that no combination of Jacobson, Unverzagt, and Hill describes nor suggests a golf cart as is recited in Claim 1. Specifically, no combination of Jacobson, Unverzagt, and Hill describes nor suggests a third fastening mechanism for removably coupling other golf equipment to the apparatus. Rather, and in contrast to the invention, Jacobson merely describes a flexible end of a strap wrapped around a pole, and Unverzagt merely describes a fastening member and a securing member. Hill, which describes a coupling a bar onto itself, does not overcome the deficiencies of Jacobson and Unverzagt.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Jacobson in view of Unverzagt and further in view of Hill.

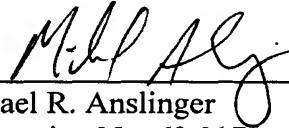
When the recitations of Claim 3 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claim 3 likewise is patentable over Jacobson in view of Unverzagt and further in view of Hill.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 3 under Section 103 be withdrawn.

Claims 18-22 have been newly added. Claims 18 and 19 depend from independent Claim 1, Claims 20 and 21 depend from independent Claim 7, and Claim 22 depends from independent Claim 13. Claims 1, 7, and 13 are submitted to be patentable over the cited references. When the recitations of Claims 18-22 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claims 1, 7, and 13, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 18-22 likewise are patentable over the cited references.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited. Should this application require an Examiner Amendment to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss any matters relating to the allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Anslinger", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael R. Anslinger
Registration No. 63,017
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070